



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Advisory Committee Meeting

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National Agricultural Statistics Service
June 23-24, 2014

2012 CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE
YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

NASS

- NASS: National Agricultural Statistics Service, the federal statistical agency responsible for U.S. agricultural data
- Mission Statement: The National Agricultural Statistics Service provides timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.
- Conduct hundreds of surveys during a year.
- Every five years, NASS releases a Census of Agriculture.

What Does NASS Do?

- Administer USDA's Statistical Estimating Program and the 5-year Census of Agriculture
- Coordinate Federal/State Agricultural Statistical needs
- Statistical consulting for other Federal/State or private organizations and other countries
- Statistical Research

WHO USES NASS DATA

- Farmers and ranchers
- Policymakers
- Community planners and cooperatives
- Companies and industry groups
- Researchers and analysts
- USDA agencies
- Federal and state agencies



Census of Agriculture

- The first Census of Agriculture was conducted in 1840.
- 2012 Census of Agriculture Data Release May 2, 2014
- Complete count of farms and ranches taken every 5 years
- Production & value of agriculture at the county, state, and national levels
- Demographic data and financial well being
- Historical agricultural trends

CENSUS DATA

- Census data are available:
 - Online at www.agcensus.usda.gov
 - Through your local NASS field office
 - Toll-free hotline 800.727.9540

FARM DEFINITION

- Any place from which \$1,000 of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally, would have been sold, during the Census year.
- This definition is unchanged since 1974.

BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER 2012 CENSUS QUESTIONS

- In what year did the operator begin to operate any part of this operation?
- What year did the operator begin to operate any farm?*
- What was the operator's age on December 31, 2012?
- At which occupation did the operator spend the majority (50 percent or more) of his/her worktime in 2012?

These questions are asked of up to 3 operators per farm
Responses to these questions can be cross tabulated with
responses from all other questions about production,
demographics, economics and farms.

* (NEW question in 2012 Census)

THE AVERAGE FARM

	2002	2012
Age of Operator	55.3	58.3
Years on Operation	20.7	22.8
Years Farming	N/A	25

BEGINNING FARMERS PRINCIPAL OPERATORS

	2007	2012	% Change
All beginning farmers (10 years or less on present operation)	652,820	522,058	-20%
On the present operation 5 years or less	291,329	226,670	-22%

BEGINNING FARM OPERATORS BY AGE OF PRINCIPAL OPERATOR

	2007 10 Years or less on farm (%)	2012 10 Years or less on farm (%)
Less than 25 years old	2%	2%
25 to 34	13%	16%
35 to 44	21%	20%
45 to 54	29%	25%
55 to 64	22%	23%
65 and older	12%	14%

2012 AVERAGE FARM CHARACTERISTICS BY YEARS ON PRESENT FARM OF PRINCIPAL OPERATOR

	All Farms	1-5 years	6-10 years	11 years or more
Sales	\$187,097	\$106,197	\$125,269	\$210,156
Government Payments	\$9,925	\$7,220	\$7,462	\$10,504
Production expenses	\$155,947	\$96,673	\$111,396	\$172,703
Net income	\$43,750	\$16,610	\$21,718	\$51,725
Percent of operators reporting net gains	46%	39%	37%	48%
Expense to sales ratio	83%	91%	89%	82%

2012 AVERAGE FARM CHARACTERISTICS BY YEARS ON PRESENT FARM OF PRINCIPAL OPERATOR

	All Farms	1-5 years	6-10 years	11 years or more
Land in farms	434	294	277	483
Cropland harvested	244	118	131	278
Value of land and buildings	\$1,075,491	\$602,737	\$678,696	\$1,216,848

KEY FINDINGS (2007 TO 2012)

- While overall the number of persons starting on a new farm has dropped since 2007, not all farm specializations showed the same pattern.
- Mirroring trends among all farms, the only size categories of farms showing increases for beginning farmers are farms with 1,000 or more acres.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2012 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

- Young, beginning principal operators who reported their primary occupation as farming increased from 36,396 to 40,499 between 2007 and 2012.
- That's an 11.3% increase in the number of young people getting into agriculture as a full-time job.

CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2012 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

- 22% of all farmers were beginning farmers in 2012.
- That means 1 out of every 5 farmers operated a farm for less than 10 years.

**CENSUS_{OF}
AGRICULTURE**

2017 CENSUS QUESTIONS AND OUTREACH

- Is any additional or different information needed on beginning farmers and ranchers?
- Is any additional or different information needed on the 2017 Census?
- How can NASS best engage and reach new farmers and ranchers to respond to the Census?

FUTURE CENSUS PRODUCTS

- State and County Profiles – May, *Available Now*
- Puerto Rico Census of Agriculture - June
- Congressional Districts Profiles - July
- Congressional Districts Rankings - July
- Race, Ethnicity, and Gender Profiles - August
- American Indians - August
- Organic Production - September
- Watersheds - November
- Farm Typology - December
- Specialty Crops - December
- Specialty Crops for Puerto Rico - December

SUPPLEMENTAL SURVEYS

Other census products for 2014 release include:

- Census of Aquaculture
 - September
- Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey
 - October

CONNECT DATA TO DATA USER

- **Web Access**
- **Data Delivery -Tools**
- **Special Tabulation**
- **Customer Service**



www.nass.usda.gov

WEB ACCESS www.nass.usda.gov



USDA United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

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Status: 30,964,702 records

Select one or more items to filter records. There are currently 30,964,702 records available.

Select Commodity (one or more)

Program:

CENSUS
SURVEY

Sector:

ANIMALS & PRODUCTS
CROPS
DEMOGRAPHICS
ECONOMICS
ENVIRONMENTAL

Group:

ANIMAL TOTALS
AQUACULTURE
CROP TOTALS
DAIRY
ENERGY
EXPENSES
FARMS & LAND & ASSETS
FIELD CROPS
FRUIT & TREE NUTS

Commodity:

AG LAND
AG SERVICES
AG SERVICES & RENT
ALMONDS
ALPACAS
AMARANTH
ANIMAL SECTOR
ANIMAL TOTALS
ANIMALS, OTHER

Select Location (one or more)

Geographic Level:

AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
COUNTY
INTERNATIONAL
NATIONAL
REGION : MULTI-STATE
REGION : SUB-STATE
STATE
ZIP CODE

Select Time (one or more)

Year:

2014
2013
2012
2011
2010
2009
2008
2007
2006

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DATA TOOLS

www.agcensus.usda.gov

- **Desktop Data Query Tool 1.00**
- **Agricultural Atlas Maps**
- **Cartographic Boundary Files**
- **State and County Profiles**

**CENSUS_{OF}
AGRICULTURE**

SPECIAL TABULATIONS

- Special Request
- Specific Analytic Purpose
- Re-summarized Data Tables
 - Census of Agriculture
 - NASS Surveys
- NASS Data Lab
 - (202) 690-0380 or (202) 690-0360
- NASS Regional Office



CUSTOMER SERVICE

- Toll-Free Customer Service Line
 - **(800) 727-9540**
- Email
 - nass@nass.usda.gov
- Public Affairs and Customer Service
 - (202) 720-7017

THANK YOU

- Our goal is to provide you with the facts so that you can make policy decisions, design programs, etc.
- Questions or comments?

